**No Nuke Threat, but North Korean Threat is now Digital**

**N. Korean hacking with cryptocurrency attacks**

Following up on our reporting on North Koreans activities and problems. These days without a nuclear capability, probably a severe Covid problem, and admitted major economic failure, the North Koreans are waging an inexpensive campaign to fill their national treasury by hacking - a low cost, low risk effort.

"Between 2018 and 2020, the alleged hackers built at least nine cryptocurrency applications that purported to be trading software or digital wallets, all of which actually were malicious applications, prosecutors said."

These applications successfully entered a New York financial institution, stealing passwords and extorted accounts of $11.8 million in cryptocurrency.

However, the FBI did stop one operation and froze $1.8 million cryptocurrency transaction in Los Angeles. The North Korean suspects have been identified and warrants issued, but their arrests are unlikely.

In one successfully effort, federal prosecutors froze and seized 280 cryptocurrency accounts used by North Korean operatives who had already taken more than a quarter billion dollars from global cryptocurrency companies.

These North Korean operations continue and even have joint Canadian operations that have even stolen from $26 million from ATMs in India.

The FBI is very busy countering hackers from several foreign organizations affiliated with foreign intelligence organizations.

Our coverage of North Korean activities continues in future newsletters.

**Source:**

**"North Korea Accused in Crypto Heists," Robert McMillan, Aruna Viswanatha, *WSJ*, 210218, A1, A8**